

1-340-A Site Summary - Palco Marsh**1-340-A****County:** Humboldt **ACP Division/Segment:** HM - G - S12**NOAA Chart:** 18622**Map Book:** CA Road Atlas**Decimal Degrees:** 40.7909 -124.1833**Site Description:**

Palco Marsh is a wetland mitigation site behind and adjacent to the Bayshore Mall and west of Highway 101 in Eureka. The City of Eureka is the land manager with the Waterfront Trail crossing the west edge of the marsh making this a high public use area daily. The site includes freshwater wetlands and salt marsh that is hydrokinetically connected to Humboldt Bay providing tidal influence through a water control structure under the trail. The flows into the marsh are muted by the connecting culvert system. Adjoining the marsh and located on the bay are eelgrass beds and sheltered tidal flats.

There are multiple subtidal aquaculture sites along the west side of the Samoa Channel and baywater intakes at Redwood Marine Terminal II and Red Tank Docks that supply upland aquaculture and other industrial users nearby. See the Humboldt Bay Shoreline Response Plan for additional information and site contact information for aquaculture.

Palco Marsh provides important coastal wetland habitat for wildlife in Eureka and adjacent to Humboldt Bay and is a high bird use area year-round. Excluding oil from this site is of primary concern. Extensive salt marsh system and wetlands are vulnerable to oiling. Natural resources nearby include waterfowl, shorebirds, seabirds and waterbirds including brown pelican, cormorants, grebes, gulls, herons and egrets, loons; bank swallow (ST); brant present Nov-Apr; raptors nearby include bald eagle (SE), northern harrier, osprey and peregrine falcon. Marine mammals including harbor seals and river otters nearby; fisheries nearby include eulachon (FT), green sturgeon (FT,SSC), longfin smelt (ST), groundfish (EFH), Pacific lamprey (SSC), salmonids including chinook (FT) and coho salmon (FT,ST), coastal cutthroat trout (SSC) and steelhead (FT), tidewater goby (FE, SSC, Critical Habitat), Pacific herring spawn on eelgrass, Dungeness crab; extensive eelgrass beds nearby. Sensitive vegetation nearby including Humboldt Bay owl's-clover, Pacific gilia, Point Reyes salty bird's-beak, and Siskiyou checkerbloom (all CNPS 1B.2).

Resources at Risk:*ESI and Habitat:* 10A Salt - and brackish-water marshes

9A Sheltered tidal flats

5 Mixed sand and gravel beaches

List of Resources at Risk:

	Resource Name	Status	Presence	Sensitivity
Fish	salmonids		Year-round	
Fish	green sturgeon - Southern	FT, SSC	Year-round	
Fish	longfin smelt	ST	Year-round	
Fish	tidewater goby	FE, SSC	Year-round	
Fish	eulachon	FT	Year-round	
Fish	Pacific lamprey	SSC	Year-round	
Plants	Pt. Reyes bird's-beak	SSSP	Year-round	Jun-Oct
Plants	Humboldt Bay owl's-clover	SSSP	Year-round	Apr-Aug

FT-Federally Threatened, FE-Federally Endangered, FP-Federally Protected, SE-State Endangered, ST-State Threatened, SP -State Protected, SR-State Rare, SSC-Species of Special Concern, BGEPA-Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, SSSP-State Special Status Species

List of Key Contacts:

Type	Name/Title	Organization	Phone
C	/Coordinator	Native American Heritage Commission	(916) 373-3710
C	/Coordinator	Northwest Information Center	(707) 588-8455
C	/	The Wiyot Tribe	(707) 733-5055
E	/	City of Eureka	(707) 441-4203
E	/	Eureka Police Department	(707) 441-4044
O	/Terminal Manager	Chevron Marine Terminal	(707) 444-7850
O	/	Humboldt Bay Harbor District	(707) 443-0801
T	/	NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service-Arcata	(707) 822-7201
T	/	US Fish and Wildlife Service-Arcata Field Office	(707) 822-7201

C – Cultural, Historic, Archaeological; E – Entry/Owner/Access; O – Other; S – Safety; T – Trustee; X – Exclusion or Security

Additional Site Summary Comments:

For further information about coastal access in this area, please refer to the California Coastal Commission's California Coastal Access Guide. For photos of the coastline in this area, please refer to the California Coastal Records Project (www.californiacoastline.org).

Cultural, Historical, and Archeological sites are known to exist in the area, however, the exact locations of these sites must be ascertained by contacting the Native American Heritage Commission at (916) 373-3710, the State Office of Historical Preservation (916) 445-7000, and/or the Northwest Information Center (707) 588-8455.

Concerns and Advice to Responders:

Oiling of sloughs and marsh complex could cause long term damage to important habitats.

Hazard and Restrictions:

Be aware of homeless encampments in the marsh.

Site Strategies:**Site Validation Level: III**

Strategy: 1-340.1 Objective: Prevent oil from entering the marsh

Strategy: Deploy exclusion boom from south of the tidegate structure to the north and across the channel to protect tidegate, channel and marsh. Add sorbent boom near tidegate as appropriate.

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
Boom	Swamp			300	feet	<i>Strategy Updated: 5/29/2018</i>
Boom	Sorbent			40	feet	<i>Last Test: 3/14/2017</i>
Anchor	Danforth	25 lbs		1		
T-Posts						
Staff				3		

Logistics:

Directions: From Highway 101 in Eureka (South Broadway St), take Del Norte Street west to the Eureka Waterfront Trail, the marsh is visible here with the water control structure 1/4 mile south. Gated access to the trail also available from the foot of Vigo Street or Bayshore Way behind the mall.

Land Access: Vehicle access possible from Waterfront Trail; locked gates can be opened by the City of Eureka to facilitate access.

On-Water Limitations: No access by water. Too shallow

Facilities, Staging Areas, Command Posts, Available Equipment: OSROs have staging at their facilities in Eureka. Small parking areas and restrooms at trailhead.

Communications Problems: none

Additional Operational Comments: Contact City of Eureka for access and assistance if a response here is necessary.

